



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***NUTTALLANTHUS TEXANUS*** **BLUE TOADFLAX**

Blue Toadflax is a slender annual with erect, unbranched stems that are 10-50 cm tall. There is a rosette of prostrate stems at the base, the leaves of which are narrowly oblong, 5-10 mm long, and opposite or in whorls of 3. Stem leaves are narrower, and the lower are opposite or in whorls of 3, becoming alternate above. Foliage is glabrous, often with a thin, bluish, waxy coating. Short-stalked flowers are borne in an elongating, spike-like inflorescence. The snapdragon-like blue flowers are 8-12 mm long and have 5 sepals and a 2-lipped corolla. The lower lip is horizontal and 3-lobed, while the upper is 2-lobed and erect. There is a linear, downcurved spur that is 2-11 mm long and located at the base of the corolla. The fruit is a globose, many-seeded capsule that is 2-4 mm high. Flowering in May-June.

Distinguished by its blue, spurred flowers and basal rosette of prostrate stems.